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Farmers Market at the Ostrich Farm

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California passes 1st-in-nation emission rules for trains

**Associated Press
Report for America**
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California approved Thursday a first-in-the-nation, ambitious rule limiting rail pollution to aggressively cut greenhouse gas emissions in the state's latest move to establish itself as a global leader in the fight against climate change. The rule will ban locomotive engines more than 23 years old by 2030 and increase the use of zero-emissions technology to transport freight from ports and throughout railyards. It would also ban locomotives in the state from idling longer than 30 minutes if they are equipped with an automatic shutoff. "It is time to kickstart the next step of transformation, with trains," said Davina Hurt, a California Air Resources Board member. The standards would also reduce chemicals that contribute to smog.



Los Angeles skyline is seen above the Union Pacific LATC Intermodal Terminal is seen on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 in Los Angeles. Associated Press

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California passes 1st-in-nation emission rules for trains

Continued from Front

They could improve air quality near railyards and ports.

But some say it's too soon for the locomotive standards. Wayne Winegarden, a Pacific Research Institute senior fellow, said the rule would be expensive for rail companies, and increased costs will mean higher prices for many goods that move by rail.

The Association of American Railroads said in a statement "there is no clear path to zero emissions locomotives."

"Mandating that result ignores the complexity and interconnected nature of railroad operations and the reality of where zero emission locomotive technology and the supporting infrastructure stand," the group wrote.

Freight railways are an efficient means to transport the roughly 1.6 billion tons of goods nationwide across nearly 140,000 miles (225,308 kilometers), much cleaner than if those goods were trucked, it said.

The transportation sector contributed the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions nationwide in 2020, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. But rail only accounts for about 2% of



Los Angeles skyline is seen above a train rolling near the Union Pacific LATC Intermodal Terminal on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, in Los Angeles.

those emissions.

Kristen South, a Union Pacific spokesperson, said in a statement the rail company is "deeply disappointed" by the vote, adding that the rule is too ambitious for the current technology and infrastructure.

Union Pacific is working to cut greenhouse gas emissions in part by spending \$1 billion to modernize locomotives and testing out engines powered by electric batteries, South wrote.

Cecilia Garibay, a project coordinator with the 50-member Moving For-

ward Network based at Occidental College, said California needs "the strongest, most protective in-use locomotive regulation" that sets an example for the nation.

The standards would need approval from the Biden administration to move forward. They follow rules approved by the EPA to cut emissions from heavy trucks.

Locomotives pull rail cars filled with food, lumber, oil and other products through railyards near neighborhoods in Oakland, Com-

merce, San Bernardino and other California cities.

They run on diesel, a more powerful fuel than gasoline, producing greenhouse gases and pollution that is harmful for nearby residents.

Other states can sign on to try to adopt the California rule if it gets the OK from the Biden administration.

The rule is the most ambitious of its kind in the country.

"The locomotive rule has the power to change the course of history for Californians who have suffered

from train pollution for far too long, and it is my hope that our federal regulators follow California's lead," said Yasmine Agelidis, a lawyer with environmental nonprofit Earthjustice, in a statement.

Diesel exhaust is a health hazard. According to California regulators, diesel emissions are responsible for some 70% of Californians' cancer risk from toxic air pollution. The rule would curb emissions on a class of engines that annually release more than 640 tons of tiny pollutants that can enter deep into a person's lungs and worsen asthma, and release nearly 30,000 tons of smog-forming emissions known as nitrogen oxides. The rule would also drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions from locomotives, by an amount akin to removing all heavy-duty trucks from the state by 2030.

It's important to tackle emissions from a sector that often burdens low-income residents and communities of color, and that has plans to expand passenger rail, said Air Resources Board Chair Liane M. Randolph. Rail companies can participate in incentive programs run by the state to ease the cost of transitioning to zero-emissions locomotives, the agency said. □



Cigarette butts fill a smoking receptacle outside a federal building in Washington, Thursday, April 15, 2021.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. cigarette smoking dropped to another all-time low last

year, with 1 in 9 adults saying they were current smokers, according to government survey data released Thursday. Meanwhile, elec-

U.S. adult cigarette smoking rate hits new all-time low

tronic cigarette use rose, to about 1 in 17 adults.

The preliminary findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are based on survey responses from more than 27,000 adults.

Cigarette smoking is a risk factor for lung cancer, heart disease and stroke, and it's long been considered the leading cause of preventable death.

In the mid-1960s, 42% of U.S. adults were smokers. The rate has been gradually dropping for decades, due to cigarette taxes, tobacco product price hikes, smok-

ing bans and changes in the social acceptability of lighting up in public.

Last year, the percentage of adult smokers dropped to about 11%, down from about 12.5% in 2020 and 2021. The survey findings sometimes are revised after further analysis, and CDC is expected to release final 2021 data soon.

E-cigarette use rose to nearly 6% last year, from about 4.5% the year before, according to survey data.

The rise in e-cigarette use concerns Dr. Jonathan Samet, dean of the Colora-

do School of Public Health. Nicotine addiction has its own health implications, including risk of high blood pressure and a narrowing of the arteries, according to the American Heart Association.

"I think that smoking will continue to ebb downwards, but whether the prevalence of nicotine addiction will drop, given the rise of electronic products, is not clear," said Samet, who has been a contributing author to U.S. Surgeon General reports on smoking and health for almost four decades.

Military sex assault reports rise, even as Army numbers fall

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of reported sexual assaults across the military inched up by about 1% last year, as a sharp decline in Army numbers offset large increases in the other three services, according to a Pentagon report released Thursday.

The small overall uptick is significantly less than the 13% jump the Defense Department saw in 2021, but it's overshadowed by the fact the Air Force, the Navy and the Marine Corps all had more reports last year than the previous year.

Because the Army is much larger than the other three services, its 9% drop in reported sexual assaults last year drove the overall military increase down. That large decrease comes a year after Army leaders saw a nearly 26% jump in reports involving soldiers — the largest increase for that service since 2013.

The Air Force saw the largest increase in reported assaults during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, at 13%, while the Navy had a 9% jump and the Marine Corps went up by about 4%.

Overall, there were more than 8,942 reports of sexual assaults involving service members during the 2022 fiscal year, a slight increase over the 8,866 the year before.

The Pentagon and the mili-



The Pentagon is seen in this aerial view made through an airplane window in Washington, Jan. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

tary services have come under increasing criticism and pressure from members of Congress to reduce sexual assaults and harassment in the military. The services have long struggled to come up with programs to prevent sexual assaults and to encourage reporting, including a number of new initiatives over the past year.

Defense officials have long argued that an increase in reported assaults is a positive trend because so many people are reluctant to report them, both in the military and in society as a whole. Greater reporting, they say, shows there is more confidence in the

reporting system, greater comfort with the support for victims, and a growing number of offenders who are being held accountable.

Nate Galbreath, acting director of the Pentagon's sexual assault prevention and response office, said the department is using a budget infusion of \$479 million this year to hire as many as 2,400 personnel for a new "prevention workforce." He said about 350 have already been hired and as the number grows they will be placed in military installations around the world to help commanders address some of the risk factors that lead to sexual

assault.

"This is the first time in the 15 years that I've been working this issue for the Department of Defense that I have a fully funded and fully staffed way forward," he told The Associated Press. "I think this is the thing that's going to allow us to really address this. Everybody needs to hold us accountable. They need to watch this space, and we will make good on our promise to address this."

It's unclear whether the latest increase in reports represents a growing problem or whether those who say they were assaulted were just more willing to come forward.

While the military has made inroads in making it easier and safer for service members to come forward, it has had far less success reducing the assaults, which have increased nearly every year since 2006. And Army leaders, as an example, have acknowledged that issues such as sexual assaults, suicides and other problems have an impact on recruiting. All of the services have been struggling to meet recruiting goals. Asked about the latest report, Heather Hagan, an Army spokeswoman, said Thursday that "while encouraging, we know the Army has much more work to do to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment."

Army officials were alarmed as they saw the growing numbers last year and began trying to implement new programs, and by late fall they said that some changes were starting to work.

They said one change involved a training program that soldiers get when they report to their first duty station. It is rolled out right away, and it has soldiers acting out dangerous situations and emphasizes training on how to respond.

The Army officials also said they were beefing up evaluation programs that grade unit leaders, including randomly picking peers and others to do the assessments. □

Feds wrote \$128M in duplicate checks to docs, report finds

By AMANDA SEITZ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government wrote duplicate checks to doctors who provided care for veterans, costing taxpayers as much as \$128 million in extra payments, according to a new watchdog report out this week.

In nearly 300,000 cases, private doctors were paid twice — once by the Veterans Health Administration and another time by Medicare — for the same care

provided to veterans from 2017 to 2021, the Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General found in its report.

There's been a spike in those duplicate payments since 2020, when the program that allows veterans to seek care from private doctors was expanded.

"These duplicate payments occurred because CMS did not implement controls to address duplicate payments for services," the HHS OIG said in its report.

Roughly 1.9 million veterans every year now receive health care, paid for by the federal government, from private doctors when a VA medical facility is too far away or has long wait times. The number of veterans seeking care from private doctors has more than doubled since 2020.

The HHS OIG's audit examined \$19.2 billion Medicare payments for 36 million claims for individuals who enrolled in Medicare and were eligible for VA



This June 21, 2013, file photo, shows the seal affixed to the front of the Department of Veterans Affairs building in Washington.

Associated Press

services. The investigation found that Medicare paid out \$128 million in nearly

300,000 claims that had already been covered by the VA from 2017 to 2021. □

Monument to Coretta Scott King dedicated in Atlanta

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A new monument and garden celebrating and honoring the legacy of civil rights activist Coretta Scott King was dedicated on Thursday, which would have been her 96th birthday.

The Coretta Scott King Peace and Meditation Garden and monument sits on the grounds of The King Center in Atlanta, which she founded in 1968 to memorialize the life, work, legacy and commitment to nonviolence of her husband, slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The magnitude of her contributions to humanity are yet to be known," the Rev. Bernice King, CEO of The King Center, said of her mother. "Today's dedication of this monument is but a beginning. There's much more to come, and when her legacy is fully revealed, we will know that because of her, because of Mom, because of Coretta Scott King, the dream lives and the legacy continues."

After a program featuring speeches, a poem and musical performances, Ber-



The Rev. Bernice King, center, daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, granddaughter of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Yolanda Renee King, right, and artist Saya Woolfalk, left, attend during the dedication of the Coretta Scott King Peace and Meditation Garden and monument on Thursday, April 27, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

nice King and her niece Yolanda Renee King — the 14-year-old daughter of Martin Luther King III — together untied a ribbon on the gate of the garden and cut another ribbon on the monument.

Also on hand for the ceremony was MLK lieutenant and former Atlanta mayor and United Nations ambassador Andrew Young, civil

rights advocate Xernona Clayton, as well as other King family members and civic leaders.

The monument was created by artist Saya Woolfalk, who said the desire of the King family to have it on the "sacred ground" of The King Center, rather than a site somewhere else in the city as originally planned, was meaningful to her.

"It's an immersive environment," Woolfalk said of the work she created. "It's not a representational sculpture. It's intended to make you feel like you're in the spirit of Mrs. King. So you walk into the space, and you feel her spirit." The monument features a circular "chapel dome" made of steel that is open on the sides. Underneath

the domed canopy is a bronze cast sculpture of microphones that includes a live microphone that Woolfalk said is meant to allow visitors "to speak their own words and commitments to civil rights and nonviolence." The floor is a tiled mosaic of the rose that bears King's name.

The garden features a stone-paved area flanked by benches and flower beds leading up to the monument. It is near the eternal flame that burns next to the pool that surrounds the crypt that holds the Kings' bodies.

The monument was commissioned by Hulu as part of its "Made By Her: Monuments" project, which aims to chip away at the gender disparities in public art. Similar monuments to journalist and conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg have been commissioned in Miami and Los Angeles, respectively.

The monuments all include the canopy structure to link them as part of "a kind of sisterhood of sacred sites," said Woolfalk, who designed all three. □



This 1955 file photo shows Carolyn Bryant. Carolyn Bryant Donham, the white woman who accused Black teenager Emmett Till of making improper advances before he was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 has died Tuesday night, April 25, in hospice care in Louisiana, according to a death report filed Thursday, April 27, 2023, in Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office in Louisiana.

Associated Press

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The white woman who ac-

Carolyn Bryant Donham, at center of Emmett Till death, dies

cused Black teenager Emmett Till of whistling at her — causing his 1955 lynching in Mississippi, which galvanized a generation of activists to rise up in the Civil Rights Movement — has died at 88.

Carolyn Bryant Donham died in hospice care Tuesday night in Louisiana, a coroner's report shows.

Till's kidnapping and brutal murder captured international attention when his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, insisted on an open-casket funeral in their hometown of Chicago after his brutalized body was pulled from a river in Mississippi. Jet magazine published photos.

In August 1955, Till had traveled from Chicago to visit relatives in Mississippi. Don-

ham — then 21 and named Carolyn Bryant — accused him of making improper advances on her at a grocery store where she was working in the small community of Money. The Rev. Wheeler Parker, a cousin of Till who was there, has said 14-year-old Till whistled at the woman, an act that flew in the face of Mississippi's racist social codes of the era.

Evidence indicates a woman identified Till to Donham's then-husband Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam, who killed the teenager. An all-white jury acquitted the two white men in the killing, but the men later confessed in an interview with Look magazine. When Till disappeared in Mississippi, Ollie Gordon

— one of Till's cousins — was 7 years old and living in the Chicago home with Till's mother and family. Gordon told The Associated Press on Thursday that in the days leading up to when his body was found, the home was full of fear, because people knew there was a strong likelihood he had been killed. Gordon said she had mixed emotions about Donham's death. In an unpublished memoir obtained by The Associated Press in 2022, Donham said she was unaware of what would happen to Till.

The contents of the 99-page manuscript, titled "I am More Than A Wolf Whistle," were first reported by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting.

Historian and author Timothy Tyson of Durham, North Carolina, who said he obtained a copy from Donham while interviewing her in 2008, provided a copy to the AP.

Tyson had placed the manuscript in an archive at the University of North Carolina with the agreement that it not be made public for decades, though he said he gave it to the FBI during an investigation the agency concluded in 2021. He said he decided to make it public after some of Till's relatives and other people doing research at the Leflore County, Mississippi, courthouse in June 2022 found an arrest warrant on kidnapping charges that was issued for "Mrs. Roy Bryant" in 1955 but never served. □

World powers pull their citizens as violence roils Sudan

By SYLVIE CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Leila Oulkebous' research for her doctorate from one of France's top universities was going well when the explosions started.

Oulkebous had decided to focus her field work on Sudan when the country exploded into violence.

The chiefs of the country's army and its rival Rapid Support Forces rose to power after a popular uprising in 2019 prompted them to remove longtime autocratic ruler Omar al-Bashir. They started fighting this month amid tensions over a new plan to re-introduce civilian rule.

The bombing shook the house where Oulkebous was living in the capital, Khartoum, investigating the effects of dams on rivers that cross borders.

"We were hiding all the time under the bed," she said Wednesday at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport as hundreds of people arrived in harrowing evacuations. World powers were rescuing people from Sudan on planes and warships in operations prompted by the eruption of the fighting that sent thousands of foreigners and many more Sudanese people fleeing for safety.

A French frigate carrying hundreds of evacuees docked Wednesday morning in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as part of broader efforts involving several warships, in addition to airlifts.

French military spokesman Col. Pierre Gaudilliere said France evacuated more than 500 civilians from 40 nations by plane over the weekend after securing the airbase north of Khartoum Saturday, using its airbase in neighbouring Djibouti for the airlift.

Gaudilliere said the French military was the first to land, and organized the flow of its own and other nations' planes.

"You still had airstrikes as the operation was going on, crossfire in the streets, artillery fire, so it was and still is very intense fighting," Gaudilliere said. The French



In this handout image, provided by the UK Ministry of Defence, on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 British Nationals seen here boarding an RAF aircraft in Akrotiri, Cyprus, after being evacuated from Sudan.

Associated Press

military had personnel on the ground to assess the situation during the operation, he said.

Several nations, including Japan, thanked France for rescuing their citizens.

Some other countries quickly joined evacuation efforts.

Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said Wednesday three nationals have been evacuated with help from Germany, and his country is now working with Turkey to help evacuate two other citizens.

Greek national Christos Dedes, who was in Sudan for work, said he and his colleagues managed to leave their Khartoum hotel Tuesday via the Portuguese embassy, which sent a car to drive them to the airbase where there were Italian, French and German soldiers.

"We just happened to leave with the Italians, on a transport plane," he said on Greek TV channel Mega Wednesday, after he arrived in Athens.

From their Khartoum hotel, he said, they could see that "every day the battles were heavier. Both (sides) were using heavy weapons." He said they would hear explosions at night, and see bodies in the street.

More than 1,000 people from 58 countries were to arrive Wednesday by ship to the port of Jeddah in

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, including many on the French warship Lorraine.

Saudi Arabia on Saturday organized the first evacuation convoy by land, via cars and buses bringing people to Port Sudan, where a navy ship took them to Jeddah.

The French foreign affairs ministry said a flight carrying 184 French nationals and their families and about 20 other nationals returned from Djibouti and landed in Paris Wednesday morning.

Among them was Oulkebous, a Moroccan PhD student at Bordeaux Montaigne University.

"The feeling I had since the first day of fighting was I felt really paralysed, I didn't know what to do, I didn't know how to get out, the airport was closed, we could not leave," she said, describing "the explosions, the smoke, so really, I didn't have the time to fully realise what was going on."

A Royal Air Maroc plane arrived at Casablanca's Mohammed V airport on Wednesday, carrying 136 Moroccan nationals evacuated from Sudan.

In contrast with France and some other nations, the U.S. and Britain didn't evacuate non-diplomats at first.

The British government has come under growing criticism for its failure to airlift civilians. On Tuesday, Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak defended the government's approach, saying diplomats had been evacuated first "because they were being targeted."

The British government since said that 301 people have been evacuated on four U.K. flights from Sudan over the past 24 hours, and four more are scheduled Wednesday. Britain intends to keep running the flights for as long as possible. In addition, "rapid deployment teams" of U.K. officials are in Port Sudan assessing potential for a seaborne evacuation.

The Foreign Office says U.K. passport-holders are eligible, "and priority is given to family groups with children and/or the elderly or individuals with medical conditions."

Officials have said there are as many as 4,000 British citizens in Sudan, 2,000 of whom have registered for potential evacuation.

The White House said Monday the U.S. is helping from afar as thousands of Americans left behind in Sudan seek to escape fighting in the east African nation, after the U.S. Embassy evacuated all of its diplomatic personnel over the weekend and shut down.

The Biden administration is considering several options for assisting private American citizens in getting out of Sudan.

Two U.S. officials said one option being considered would be to send U.S. Navy vessels in, or en route to, the Red Sea to dock at Port Sudan and take Americans to Jeddah or another location. The officials said this would depend on the security situation and whether it was deemed safe for the ships to dock.

A U.S. official said the military has developed other options for getting Americans, including using an airfield that some European countries have used to fly out citizens. To date, it has not been told to do that, the official said.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss sensitive matters. □

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The Netherlands celebrates birthday of King Willem-Alexander

By **PETER DEJONG**

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Netherlands celebrated the 56th birthday of King Willem-Alexander on Thursday with street markets, parties and orange-glazed pastries, even as an annual poll showed support for the monarchy continuing to decline.

The king and much of his family spent part of the day in Rotterdam, where thousands of orange-clad people lined the streets to greet the royals during a walkabout. Willem-Alexander, who took the throne in 2013, is a descendant of the House of Orange dynasty.

In Amsterdam, the municipality called on revelers to stay away from one popular neighborhood near the city's historic canal network because it was overcrowded by the late afternoon. Parts of the canal network also were crammed with boats.

Supporters of a national republican organization staged a small demonstration, holding up signs reading "Willem The Last." The organization complained about the cost of king's walkabout and said in a statement on its website that it sees the monarchy



A billboard showing Dutch Crown Princess Amalia reading "Leave Me Be" adorns the facade of a bar as orange-clad people celebrate King's Day in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Associated Press

as "a symbol of inequality." An annual poll conducted for national broadcaster NOS by Ipsos ahead of the King's Day national holiday showed support for the monarch continuing to fall after it plummeted during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the king angered many by taking a vacation in Greece during a nationwide lockdown.

Ten years after Willem-Alexander ascended to the throne, support for

the House of Orange has dropped to 55%, while backing for the Netherlands becoming a republic rose in the same period from 15% to 24%. Support for the monarchy stood at 74% before the coronavirus pandemic.

Undeterred, the king said he would continue to work to unify the country.

He told NOS he sees his role as "uniting people and in this society, which unfortunately is polarizing and

dividing, where there are really big problems. I can really play a very good connecting role."

Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb said he understood complaints about the cost of the walkabout but planned to host another major celebration if, as expected, the city's biggest soccer club Feyenoord wins the national league title. "I don't hear anybody complaining about that," the mayor told NOS.

Despite the small protests, cheers greeted the king, his wife, Queen Maxima, and two of their three daughters as the royal family toured the port city, including crossing the River Maas in a fleet of water taxi motorboats.

Among many selfies, handshakes and brief meetings along the route, the king spoke to activists who asked him when he would apologize for the royal house's historic role in slavery. Willem-Alexander said he was awaiting the results of an independent inquiry into the royal house's role. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte last year issued a formal apology for the country's involvement in the slave trade.

Security was extra tight for Thursday's tour. The royal family revealed last year that the 19-year-old heir to the throne, Princess Amalia, was forced to leave her student housing in Amsterdam due to threats.

Away from the official celebrations, children and their parents set up "free markets" throughout the country to sell their old toys, books and clothes. Amsterdam's central Vondel Park was packed with families buying, selling and playing games. □



Mia Rodriguez holds a pen with one of her prosthetic hands made by the Manos de Héroes foundation in Salinas, Uruguay, Friday, April 14, 2023.

Associated Press

By **NAUSÍCAA PALOMEQUE**

Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)

— The first thing 11-year-old Mia Rodríguez says she did with her new prosthetic hands was draw a picture of a kitten.

The Uruguayan girl, whose fingers never fully developed, put on the prosthetic hands and demonstrated the grasping movement she can now make.

"Now I can hold the pencil with one hand. Before,

Foundation prints 3D prosthetics, gives them free in Uruguay

I had to do it with both hands because my fist wouldn't close," she said, while her mother Ana Van López watched excitedly. Rodríguez received the prostheses from the Uruguayan Manos de Héroes foundation, which designs and prints hands and arms with 3D technology for children and adults across the South American country. Since 2020, the foundation has provided more than 100 free prostheses, most of them for families in vulnerable situations.

Van López, 28, lives with her partner and their four children in an abandoned factory in Salinas, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Mon-

tevideo, and her income comes from informal work, such as selling firewood or pineapples. The family has a monthly income of about 8,000 pesos, or US\$200.

"I am very grateful, I thought my daughter was the only one with this problem. She had never come across someone like her in the hospital or on the street. It's very difficult for us," said Van López, who is trying to obtain a state disability benefit for the girl equivalent to a little more than 15,000 pesos a month, or \$380.

In addition, they receive a similar amount of state support, she said.

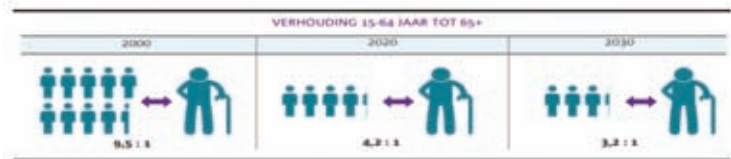
Almost 16% of the Uruguay-

an population registers some level of disability, the majority mild, according to a 2011 census by the National Statistics Institute.

Rodríguez's prosthetic hands move with threads that are taut from the motion of her wrists. They are violet with pink, colors she says she chose because they go well together, and are decorated with unicorn decals. Other children prefer the colors of their favorite soccer club or superhero.

The prostheses can be mechanical or electronic. They are placed on the hands, forearm, elbow or shoulder, according to the needs of each person. □

Board of Advisory: If there is no change in policy, the fund for the elderly will exhaust within a decade



(Oranjestad)—In an annual report for 2022, the Board of Advisory has recently elaborated on the challenges that the aging problem on Aruba may bring. On the other hand, the emerging challenges of the economic demand are particularly related to the structure of care.

Inspired by a problem created in the labor market, the Board of Advisory has indicated that there is an increasing pressure that will emerge on the economic growth. Aging—and add to that the shortage in the market—may make the economy grow slower, or may even decrease growth all-together.

Another concern in this aspect is that the shortage may bring detrimental consequences to the loan service for touristic products, with negative effects on the quality of product delivery and eventually, rates.

The entity remarks that coming out of the demographic evolution, in a participation of employment of equal age, the number of unemployed people will increase.

Despite the problem of aging, the growth of GDP per capita will probably depend more on the development of work productivity, and in the long run, this can be the force behind economic growth. The question remains if this also counts for Aruba.

They have highlighted that considering the type of labor offers in the non-diversified economy on the island, the shortage in the labor market cannot be accommodated for an increase in level of education and labor productivity in the Aruban community.

Also, because of the effects of aging within the labor market and the relationship between workers and those unemployed, this can create deteriorating effects in the business environment in the long run. For this reason, the entity indicates that it is very important to realize productive reforms and investments in benefit of the potential growth in the economy.

According to the board, we cannot just focus on the challenges of the demographic development on the side of economic offers, but we also have to consider the demand. This way, there will be—with the push of the aging population—a bigger demand in care and as a consequence, a demand for workers in the health sector.

This development does not stand on its own, but goes hand-in-hand with a complete modification of the assistive structure, the association formation and the investments in the installation of care.

In its advisory report of 2019 titled "Policy on the elderly - care and welfare: a turnaround!", the Board of Social Economics (SER) pleads for a complete change in the way Aruba generally regards and treats the structure of care, policies and the well-being of the elderly.

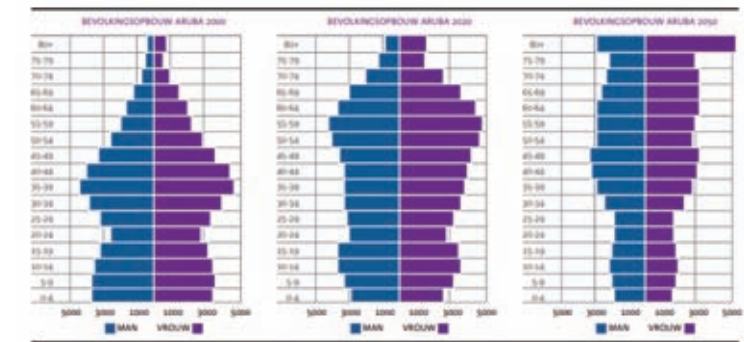
SER concluded that achieving quality and attention for the elderly is predetermined by the rate of health as well as the active participation from the entire population from birth till death.

They have stated that while there are no other visions

taking place for health, care and aging, maintaining the sustainability of health care funds from AZV and SVB will remain a challenge. Prevention, promotion for a healthy life style and public information serve as basic elements of a health policy, according to SER.

SER has also made a series of concrete recommendations to the government to guarantee good quality of care for the elderly. These recommendations include support for informal care, participation of the elderly and the quality of care.

A report published in 2022 on the efficacy and effectiveness of medical care in Aruba and commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Sports, affirms that there is a need for a short-term emergency plan for the care of elderly adults and that in the sector of residential care, there is an emergency for which ac-



tions must be taken.

With this, the conclusions from the research carried out in 2018 by the Department of Public Health Aruba (DVG) regarding long-term medical care in Aruba, confirms a further increase in pressure and importance for action.

The continuous growth of the group of people whose average age is increasing has an impact on public health and care. Looking at the high concentration of spending in health among the highest age groups, the problem of aging will bring an increase in total spending on care.

This is mainly caused by this group that most often have chronic conditions or even several at once. The increase in the cost of medical care due to the

growing demand increases the upward pressure on the financing of AZV and the quality of care it provides in the future.

In terms of treatments and benefits for older adults, the problem of aging has important consequences. As a result of the doubling aging population, not only will there be more elderly adults who received the AOV benefit, but an elderly adult will be receiving this benefit for a longer period of time. Because of this, there is a need for more financial resources to guarantee this payment in the future.

Because the benefits need to be paid to a part of the population that increasingly becomes bigger, if there is no change in policy, the fund for the elderly will exhaust within a decade. □



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Farmers Market at the Ostrich Farm



Every first Sunday of the month the Ostrich Farm organized and facilitate the largest farmers market on the island. Everything sold during the farmers market are locally crafted, produced and grown. Locally artisans and farmers gather at the farmers market to showcase proudly their products.

You can find the best artisan bread & pastries, hot sauces, jams, cooking sauces, fresh egg

and honey that comes from small beekeepers, vegetarian snacks from locally sourced beans call Dubaru.

Then you have the very talented local artisans that share their unique and one-of-a-kind art such as driftwood paintings, high quality jewelry, baby clothing, knitting products, ceramic mugs/cups and plates, Calabash art, organic soap and cosmetic and so much more!

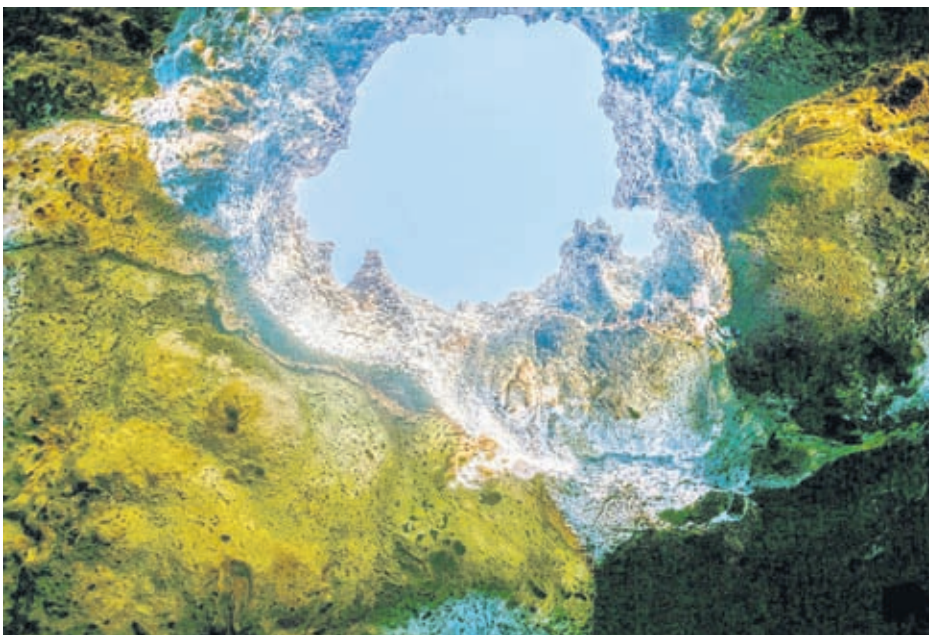


The Farmer's market is held under a large, covered area so you can shop comfortably in the shade.

The restaurant in the premises serves delicious local lunches and fresh fish when available.

Ice cold local beer, smoothies, fresh fruit shakes and not to be missed serves the best shaved ice on the island! And the Ostrich tours is of course offered as well.

For everybody young and old here is something to do, shop, relax and enjoy a great family outing and most of all come and support the local artisans and farmers every first Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00, Matividiri 57, follow our facebookpage or Instagram @arubaostrichfarm and be notified for each upcoming farmers market



Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hid-

den gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the Califor-

nia Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

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International Dark-Sky Association-Aruba asks to keep an eye out for light contamination at Sero Colorado

(Oranjestad)—The International Dark-Sky Association-Aruba recently published a post on their Facebook page, reflecting on how the construction work for Secrets Baby Beach Resorts in Sero Colorado is affecting the fragile ecosystem in the area and the problem of light contamination.

The International Dark-Sky Association is an international organization whose goal is to celebrate and protect the night sky filled with stars, which has been very important and meaningful for mankind around the world for eons. They purpose is to protect the night from light contamination.

"By proportioning leadership, tools and resources necessary for everyone, legislators and the industry in general can reduce light contamination and promote responsible use of external light that is beautiful, healthy and functional. We are bringing the theme of light contamination around the world, with the goal to create access to information on the destructive impact of excessive lighting and the benefits of responsible illumination," the organization has stated.

The International Dark-Sky Association on Aruba pointed out in their post that despite the construction of the Secret Baby Beach Resort, which is currently under construction in

Sero Colorado and which will surely bring economic benefits to Aruba, we cannot forget the potential impact that this may have on the surrounding ecosystem and in terms of light contamination.

The organization has indicated that during the last decade, the closure of the refinery of San Nicolas has allowed flora and fauna to recovery and that the reduction of light contamination has made the night sky much brighter. However, they said that with the construction of the new hotel, there exists a risk that can revert this process if we do not consider the possibility of installing appropriate illumination.

For this reason, the Aruban-based branch has been petition to the government of Aruba asking them to consider some important points for the conservation and the protection of the eco-system.

They are asking to encourage the use of appropriate illumination for the project, which can minimize the brightness of illumination. There are also asking to implement illumination mandates that can conserve the night sky, protect nocturnal wild life (like turtles) and preserve the unique character of the island.

Besides these two point, they organization is also petitioning for the promo-

tion of eco-tourism and responsible developments that imbues value on the natural resources of the island and that preserves the beauty for future generations.

In the picture you may see a map of light contamination that illustrates the location of the hotel and the possible increase of light contamination that can affect nearby natural habitats. □



beauty & THE ★ BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Jennifer and Sophia from Boston**. They said they love the warm weather and the water. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fun-

dacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in

downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The



final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and mod-

ern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



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Chef Ever de Peña: "I love to tell stories through my cooking"

(Oranjestad)—Ever de Peña, a professional chef who is only 36 years old, is preparing to open his own restaurant soon. After a long trajectory, different experiences and competitions, Ever is ready to tell a story through his cooking. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, Ever shared how he found his passion for cooking and how he came to the decision to have his own restaurant.

Ever shared how he started his studies at the EPB secondary school. Afterwards, he graduated to the EPI University and he always stayed working in hospitality and tourism. He finished university with an Associate Degree in three years, during which he worked and went to school. He worked at the Calypso restaurant at the Casa Del Mar hotel. After Casa Del Mar, Ever started a new job at the Renaissance Hotel.

Ever graduated top of his class. Afterwards, he stayed at the university and followed another course called EAI, which is a level higher.

He further shared that after his time at the Renaissance hotel, he worked at Cooks Restaurant downtown. While he was working there, he was also studying abroad, in places like California and even Italy.

During his time at Cooks Restaurant, Ever joined in a culinary competition at EPI and won. After he graduated from the university a second time, he went to work at the Manchebo Hotel, where he started out as a Sous Chef. After two years, he was promoted to Executive Chef, the youngest one on the island.

In 2016, Ever competed for the title of Iron Chef in Aruba, going up against other chefs from Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels. It was during this competition that he formed a friendship with the Executive Chef of Marriott, who offered him the job of Executive Sous Chef. It was with this offer that Ever left Manchebo and started working at Marriott that same year.



"The good thing about Marriott is that every year I would travel twice a year, and we would also bring foreign chefs in our kitchen. While I was working at Manchebo, I also traveled a few times to represent the hotel," he said.

Four years ago, Ever's ex-boss left Marriott and opened his own restaurant. Two years ago he offered Ever the opportunity to open another one with him: "I kept thinking about it and I think that now is the time to do it. That's what I'm working on right now, actually."

Ever shared that he did not always have a passion for cooking. His love grew throughout the years he experienced what it was

like to be a chef: "I remember when I was at EPI and I told my mentor that I just wanted my diploma, so that I could live in another country and be a hotel manager. But when I started working as a chef, I just fell in love with it. One thing led to another and I don't think there's anything I love more than cooking now," he expressed.

He noted that even though he does not have a favorite dish, he loves working with seafood, fish especially, than anything else: "I think fish is so versatile compared to beef. I don't have any specific favorites, but I love cooking with quality ingredients to get the best flavors out of them," he said.

In terms of his experiences competing, Ever shared that he loved it, and that he is disappointed that there has not been another cooking competition in Aruba for more than five years now.

"I think it's a great thing to do as a chef, and as a student, you learn a lot. The culinary world can be very stressful and I think a competition can help you calm down. I competed four times and I always had a blast, not because I won, but the overall experience was great."

In terms of his restaurant that is opening soon, Ever shared that it would be a small place, with room for 24 people, plus an extra 16

at the bar. He explained that the reason behind the limited seating is so he could tell a story through his cooking: "I think with this concept, I can make 16 people happy all night. It's a space where I can express myself through the food," he added.

Lastly, Ever wants to send a message for the Aruban community, especially the younger generation who are still looking for their passion in life: "My message is that it doesn't matter what you end up doing, do it with passion. I remember my mother telling me that it doesn't matter if I end up picking up trash, or whatever, just do it like you love it. That's my advice." □

CROSSWORD

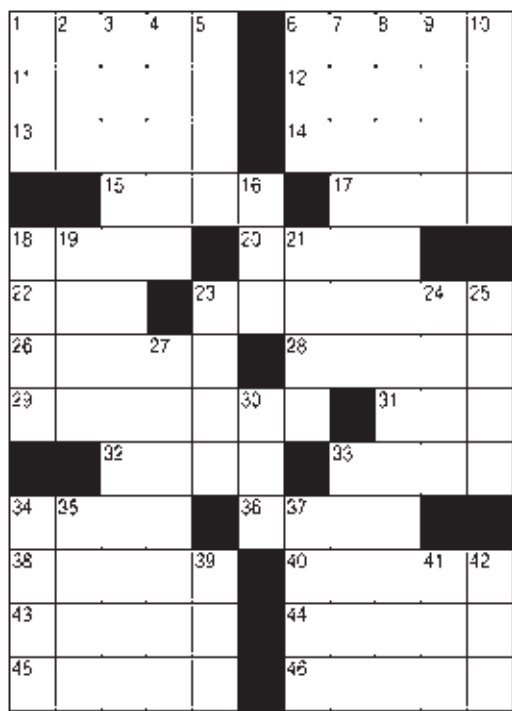
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Wednesday's answer

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A X Y D I B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

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F S P R F G V Q Z P W F G I S R Q N S Q G Z .

— V U C V Q P B R C C W Q G

Wednesday's Cryptoquote: HE WHO DOES NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR SILENCE WILL PROBABLY NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS. ELBERT HUBBARD

Thinking of Starting a Business? Consider Buying One Instead

By ROSALIE MURPHY of NerdWallet

Starting a business can be an enticing dream. It's also notoriously difficult to come up with an original idea, find the right team and fund its growth.

If you want to work for yourself, there may be an easier way — buying an existing business. Think of it like renovating a house instead of building one from the ground up, says Mark Zweig, professor and entrepreneur-in-residence at the University of Arkansas Walton College of Business. "I like the constraints of an existing business versus a clean sheet of paper," Zweig says. Here are four reasons to consider this path to entrepreneurship.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH

Founders need to find customers, develop relationships with vendors and hire employees. They may need to rent space and buy equipment. They also need to create processes, set up software tools, hire lawyers and accountants, and complete other relevant tasks.

Building that structure takes time and money. When you buy a business, at least some of those things are already in place.

"There's a lot of intellectual capital when you buy a business," says Randy Katz, founder of Synesis Advisors and past president of the California Association of Business Brokers. "The employees have seen pretty much any kind of problem that you might run into, which means that they probably are better at foreseeing problems and better (at) planning for problems."

And perhaps most valuable of all: There may already be money coming in.

"I could invest \$200,000 and have to grind it out and build the business from scratch with absolutely no infrastructure and no

guarantees of success," Katz says. With the same amount of money, he says, you could purchase a business that generates cash flow "right out of the gate." Buying a business doesn't guarantee success either, Katz cautions.

Still, "the financial economics just make a lot of sense — if you buy the right business, do the right diligence and are successful in the continuity of the operation."

FINANCING MAY BE AVAILABLE

It can be very difficult to find startup funding for a new venture. Many business owners rely on their own savings or friends and family to get their business up and running.

"The main advantage of buying a business over starting a business is that there's capital and loans available from banks for buying businesses," says Tim Stolz, a certified financial planner and certified public accountant at Bestgate Wealth Advisors in Maryland.

You may be able to use an SBA loan or business bank loan to buy a business. Startups are typically excluded from these types of financing because they lack revenue history — but when you're buying an existing business, lenders can evaluate its financials and make predictions about the business's future performance.

Business sellers may also be willing to finance the business purchase, Zweig says, especially if they're eager to retire and don't have a successor. □

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'The Eight Mountains' is a luminous, gentle stunner

By **JAKE COYLE**

AP Film Writer

Seasons and years blow through the high Alpine peaks of the decades-spanning "The Eight Mountains." But a warm, abiding glow persists throughout this tender, even restorative epic of male friendship.

The film, by Belgian filmmakers Charlotte Vandermeersch and Felix van Groeningen, is a stunning, often profound and frequently jaw-droppingly gorgeous tale of two friends from childhood through adulthood set against the Italian Alps. Vast and intimate at once, their luminously languid adaptation of Paolo Cognetti's bestseller reaches sublime heights.

"The Eight Mountains," which last year won the jury prize at the Cannes Film Festival, isn't hurried. The ebbs of its two-and-a-half hours are sometimes a little too placid. But the passage of time — what changes, what endures — is much the subject of the movie. Just as the film's near-sole setting — a remote mountain cabin beneath the peaks of northwestern Italy — beckons Pietro (Luca Marinelli) and Bruno (Alessandro Borghi) throughout their lives, the intoxicating atmosphere of "The Eight Mountains" is a cherished retreat I'm already eager



This image released by Sideshow and Janus Films shows Alessandro Borghi, left, and Luca Marinelli in "The Eight Mountains."

Associated Press

to revisit.

When we first encounter Pietro and Bruno, they're 11-year-olds. They come from different backgrounds. Pietro's family is middle-class, lives in Turin and only vacations in the Alps. Bruno's family is hardscrabble and working class, and live year-round in the mountains. They become fast friends immediately, though, and it would hard to imagine a more idyllic rendering of childhood than Pietro and Bruno's mountain playground. (One honorable mention:

Pixar's "Luca," just a little further south from here.)

As wide-screen as the surroundings are, the Belgian filmmakers Vandermeersch and van Groeningen, with cinematographer Ruben Impens, shot "The Eight Mountains" in boxy Academy ratio. Somehow, this only enhances the high-mountain splendor of the film, while at the same time drawing its characters closer together. The hills, you might say, are alive.

And the music is a big part of that. "The Eight Mountains" is scored by the Swedish

songwriter Daniel Norgren, whose dreamy, organ-inflected folk songs radiate throughout the film. It might seem too much to compare the effect to Leonard Cohen soundtracking "McCabe and Mrs. Miller." But in a similarly rural film where much goes unspoken, Norgren's serene music voices something ethereal, compassionate and timeless. The songs combined with such magnificent images produced a soulful, magical alchemy.

Most of the film takes place when Pietro and Bruno

are in their 30s. By young adulthood, they've grown apart. They live in different economic realities. The mountains mean different things to them. It's not a vacation or a refuge for Bruno; it's his life. Pietro's father (Filippo Timi), a pivotal figure in the early childhood scenes, dies having spent his life a workaholic. We get the impression his fleeting few weeks at the mountain cabin were the only ones that mattered to him.

But Pietro's strained relationship with his father — and Bruno's closeness to him — continues to shadow the movie. "The Eight Mountains" is richest in its first half, when it's foremost a father-son tale. After years away, Pietro, a writer, returns to help Bruno (now a bearded mountain man) rebuild the cabin. It's a project of rehabilitation, inside and out, and of reconciliation with his father's unrealized Alpine dreams. But in tracking the book, Vandermeersch and van Groeningen go for something more novelistic. Some pains melt away. New ones emerge. Pietro travels the world. Bruno stays, stubbornly. He falls in love, starts a family, but struggles to make ends meet. Pietro resolves to return every summer. Different as they are, the bond they share is immense. □



Tucker Carlson, host of "Tucker Carlson Tonight," poses for photos in a Fox News Channel studio on March 2, 2017, in New York.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tucker Carlson emerged Wednesday

day, two days after Fox News fired him, with a two-minute, campaign-style monologue that didn't ad-

Tucker Carlson speaks out for 1st time after Fox News firing

dress why he suddenly became unemployed.

He posted a video on Twitter shortly after 8 p.m. Eastern, the time his Fox show used to begin, that talked about a lack of honest political debate in the media. Carlson said one of the things he noticed, "when you step away from the noise for a few days," is how nice some people are, and how hilarious some are.

"The other thing you notice when you take a little time off is how unbelievably stupid most of the debates you see on television are," he said. "They're

completely irrelevant. They mean nothing. In five years we won't even remember we heard them. Trust me, as somebody who participated."

Fox fired its most popular personality on Monday without explanation, less than a week after settling a lawsuit concerning the spread of lies about the 2020 presidential election. The mystery about why Fox Corp. leadership, Rupert Murdoch and his son Lachlan, decided to suddenly dismiss Carlson lingered. The company has not explained it, although some

media reports Wednesday centered on material uncovered during Dominion Voting Systems' lawsuit but redacted from court papers. Private messages sent by Carlson with "highly offensive and crude remarks" were a "catalyst" in Fox's decision to cut him loose, according to The New York Times.

Both The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post said one redacted message included a slur against a senior Fox executive. Each of the reports relied on sources that were not identified. □

Ravens have 5-year agreement with QB Lamar Jackson

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

The Baltimore Ravens agreed in principle with Lamar Jackson on a five-year deal Thursday, securing their star quarterback for the foreseeable future and ending a contract negotiation saga that was dominating the team's off-season.

The Ravens announced the deal hours before the first round of the NFL draft, and it's fair to say that in Baltimore at least, this news will overshadow whoever the team might take in the first round.

Jackson was the NFL's MVP in 2019, but after playing out his rookie contract, his future was in doubt. Baltimore put the franchise tag on Jackson last month, but the Ravens kept expressing confidence that they could reach a long-term agreement with him — even after Jackson made a trade request public.

The Ravens did not disclose contract terms, but their tweet announcing the deal did include a video of Jackson talking.

"For the last few months, there's been a lot of he said, she said, a lot of nail biting, a lot of head scratching going on," Jackson said.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) scrambles for yardage during the first half of an NFL football game the Jacksonville Jaguars, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

"But for the next five years, it's a lot of flock going on." That was a reference to the term "Ravens Flock" used by the team's fans.

"Let's go baby. Let's go, let's go," Jackson added. "Can't wait to get there, can't wait to be there. Can't wait to light up M&T (Bank Stadium) for the next five years, man. Let's get it." Jackson's deal brings one of the NFL's biggest offseason stories to a conclusion — right as one of

the league's biggest annual events was about to start. The Ravens can now expect Jackson in the lineup for the first game of the season, without drama about whether he'll report to camp. They've already boosted his wide receiving group by signing Odell Beckham Jr. Baltimore also has a new offensive coordinator after hiring Georgia's Todd Monken.

Jackson's deal comes shortly after the Philadel-

phia Eagles gave quarterback Jalen Hurts a five-year, \$255 million extension. Drafted in 2018, Jackson is already one of six quarterbacks in NFL history with 10,000 yards passing and 4,000 rushing. He's been hurt at the end of the past two seasons, however. At age 26, his best days could well be ahead of him, and now he'll remain in a Baltimore uniform.

Jackson, who was negotiating without an agent,

stood to make \$32.4 million this season if he played on the franchise tag, but that path had potential pitfalls for both sides. Jackson would have risked losing a lot of money long term if he was injured, and even if he stayed healthy, the team might have had an unhappy quarterback on its hands. Jackson's contract situation didn't seem too disruptive last offseason, but it took a different turn when he announced in late March that he'd requested a trade a few weeks earlier. Whether that was out of frustration with the process or an attempt to draw more interest from other teams, Jackson and the Ravens now appear to be very much on the same page.

It's also an interesting coincidence Jackson's new contract was announced on draft day. Five years ago, he wasn't one of the top players taken. Baltimore landed him with the 32nd pick, and he was the fifth quarterback taken. Of the four who went ahead of him, only Buffalo's Josh Allen has enjoyed success comparable to Jackson. Allen signed a long-term deal with the Bills two off-seasons ago. □

Joe Torre wins Baseball Digest lifetime achievement award

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe Torre has won the third Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Baseball Digest. A star player during 18 major league seasons and longtime manager for the New York Yankees and four other teams, Torre was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2014. He was honored Thursday with an annual distinction that recognizes a living individual "who has made significant contributions to the game."

Willie Mays won the inaugural award in 2021, followed by Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully last year.

"It is truly an honor to re-

ceive Baseball Digest's Lifetime Achievement Award and I am grateful to my family and the countless people who have been a part of my time in baseball," Torre said in a news release. "This is even more special because I am following in the footsteps of two of my childhood idols who became dear friends, Willie Mays and Vin Scully." The 82-year-old Torre, who grew up in Brooklyn, won four World Series championships and six AL pennants as manager of the Yankees from 1996-2007. He also skippered the New York Mets, Atlanta Braves, St. Louis Cardinals and Los Angeles Dodgers, winning

13 division titles in 29 years on the bench. His 2,326 regular-season wins as a manager rank fifth in major league history.

As a player, Torre broke into the big leagues in 1960 with the Milwaukee Braves and batted .297 with 252 home runs and 1,185 RBIs overall. He made nine All-Star teams and was the 1971 NL MVP with the Cardinals. Primarily a catcher, first baseman and third baseman, Torre finished with 2,342 hits and an .817 OPS for the Braves, Cardinals and Mets.

After retiring as a manager following the 2010 season, Torre joined MLB as executive vice president for



Former New York Yankees manager Joe Torre speaks while visiting the library during his orientation visit at the Baseball Hall of Fame, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Associated Press

baseball operations. He became a special assistant to Commissioner Rob Manfred in 2020.

In 2002, Torre and his wife, Ali, established the Joe

Torre Safe at Home Foundation. The organization provides school services to children exposed to violence, helping them heal from trauma. □

Heat-Knicks: A playoff rivalry that's about to get rekindled

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP)— They brawled in 1997. Jeff Van Gundy clung to Alonzo Mourning's leg in 1998. Allan Houston got a friendly bounce in 1999. Clarence Weather-spoon didn't get one in 2000. Amare Stoudemire lost a fight with a glass-en-closed fire extinguisher in 2012.

Ah, Knicks-Heat. Something always hap-pens. And here we go again.

There are more storied ri-valries in the NBA — Lakers-Celtics and 76ers-Celtics among them — but there is just something about a Heat vs. Knicks matchup that brings out something extra in Miami and New York. They're about to



Miami Heats P.J. Brown grabs New York Knicks Charlie Ward while New York Knicks John Wallace, top, pulls on Brown during a fight in the fourth quarter Wednesday, May 14, 1997, in Miami.
Associated Press

meet in the NBA playoffs for the sixth time; Game 1 of an Eastern Conference semifinal series is Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

"It's always good for the league," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, "when there's a Heat-Knicks play-off series."

This will be the first time that New York has home-court advantage in a playoff matchup against Miami. There are tons of reasons why the rivalry is the rivalry, but the biggest reason is Pat Riley. He quit coaching the Knicks after the 1994-95 season — famously by fax — with a year left on his contract. A few weeks later, Riley and Heat manag-ing general partner Micky Arison met in New England and began hammering out the deal to bring him to Mi-ami. They shook hands, the Heat eventually got Riley out of his Knicks contract for \$1 million and a first-round draft pick, and the New York-Miami rivalry in basketball was born. The Heat ousted the Knicks in 1997. The Knicks returned

the favor and then some by ending Miami's season in 1998, 1999 and 2000. And in 2012, the Heat coasted past New York on the way to the NBA title.

A look back:

1997: HEAT 4, KNICKS 3

The Heat were down 3-1 and refused to go out with-out a fight. Literally.

The whole series changed when New York's Char-lie Ward and Miami's P.J. Brown got tangled under a basket during Game 5. Ward got flipped over, while four Knicks — Allan Houston, Patrick Ewing, Lar-ry Johnson and John Starks — all were suspended for leaving the Knicks' bench to join the fight.

Facing elimination, the Heat won the last three games, including one at Madison Square Garden, becoming just the sixth team in NBA history to erase a 3-1 deficit.

1998: KNICKS 3, HEAT 2

Miami had a chance to close out New York in Game 4 at Madison Square Garden, a game best re-membered by a fight be-tween Alonzo Mourning and Larry Johnson — one where New York coach Jeff Van Gundy tried pull-ing Mourning away by grabbing onto his leg.

Patrick Ewing was sus-pended for Game 5, as were Mourning and John-son, who was ruled out of the deciding Heat-Knicks game for the second straight year by the NBA. Allan Houston scored 30 points, and the Knicks rolled to a 98-81 win in the deciding game.

1999: KNICKS 3, HEAT 2

Miami got to this year's se-ries against the Knicks by beating top-seeded Mil-waukee. So now, the Heat have gotten a taste of the joy New York had 24 years ago when it beat the top seed that season — Miami. The Heat won an elimina-tion game in New York to force a winner-take-all Game 5 in Miami. Allan Houston's 15-footer hit the front of the rim, hit the back-board and then dropped with 0.8 seconds left for a 78-77 win that gave New York the series. □



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